



**Antelope Valley Mosquito
& Vector Control District**
42624 6th St. East
Lancaster, CA 93535
(661) 942 – 2917
www.avmosquito.org

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 22, 2014

Contact:

Cei Kratz – District Manager
Karen Mellor – Entomologist

First Human Case of West Nile Virus in the Antelope Valley for 2014

Lancaster, CA – The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reported the first human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in the Antelope Valley for 2014. They report a total of 59 human infections with three fatalities in Los Angeles County so far this year. The ages of the patients range from 24 to 89 years. At the same time last year there were a total of 96 cases in the County, of which 12 were in the Antelope Valley.

“Even though today is the first day of autumn, the mosquito season isn’t over yet,” said District Manager Cei Kratz. “Our season typically runs through the end of October, when the weather usually turns colder. We urge residents to continue to be vigilant and remove standing water around their property.”

To date 26 sentinel chickens, five dead birds, and four mosquito samples have tested positive for West Nile Virus in the Antelope Valley.

As of 9/19/14 the California Department of Public Health reports West Nile Virus activity from 38 Counties in 2,079 dead birds, 2,952 mosquito samples, and 328 sentinel chickens, as well as 311 human cases with 12 fatalities.

To stay up-to-date on new WNV activity in the Antelope Valley and any mosquito related information check out our website at www.avmosquito.org, Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/avmosquito>), and follow us on Twitter @AVMosquito.

West Nile Virus is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. Although most people that are infected do not show any symptoms, West Nile Virus is a potentially debilitating disease. Even 'mild' cases of West Nile Fever can cause patients enormous pain and discomfort for months.

More tips to keep mosquitoes away and stay safe:

- Follow the 3 D's (Drain, Dusk/Dawn, Defend/DEET)
- Check your property for any standing water from sprinklers or thunder showers
- Turn on fans to keep mosquitoes away
- Keep screen doors and windows in good repair and close them
- Don't use bug zappers near your patio – they attract more mosquitoes than they kill

Also remember to:

- Get FREE mosquito-eating fish (*Gambusia affinis*) for fish ponds, pools, and horse troughs.
- Vaccinate your horses properly.
- Report stagnant pools and other backyard sources to the AVMVCD.
- Report dead birds by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or online at www.westnile.ca.gov.

For any further questions or services please feel free to contact the Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District by phone (661-942-2917).